CCN Newsletter

County Councils Network

Welcome to the Network's April Newsletter – The Olympic Edition

This month has been a bit quieter on the 'News Front' with the Easter Holidays and also being in the Purdah period with the May 2012 elections being so close.

But the work of **CCN** continues and this month we feature the forthcoming **CCN** Executive Meeting, the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics the **CCN** County Beacon and the forthcoming MJ Awards.

The Modern Olympic Games can trace its history back to the games organised in the 1850s in Much Wenlock, **Shropshire**. In time, this grew and inspired the first Modern Olympic Games which evolved into the Olympic and Paralympic Games that we know today. The Paralympic Games can trace its roots back to the 1948 London Olympics when Stoke Mandeville in **Buckinghamshire** hosted the Stoke Mandeville Games for people with spinal cord injuries.

This edition of the **CCN** Newsletter gives an update on some of the events that taking place in **CCN** member areas and the wider impact that it is having across the country.

Weymouth Bay and Portland Harbour

Venue for the Olympic and Paralympic Sailing competitions, Dorset.

As always, if you have any feedback on the Newsletter, items that you would like to see included or suggestions about how we can improve the Newsletter, please let us know. Contact kieran.smith@local.gov.uk or 0207 664 3009.

CCN Newsletter

County Councils Network

CCN Executive – The **CCN** Executive will meet next on 23 May 2012 at 1200hrs here at Local Government House. The agenda is yet to be finalised but will include an update on Community Budgets, Local Government Finance, Open Public Services, the National Planning Policy Framework and Health & Social Care.

The papers for the meeting will be available to download from the **CCN** Website.

Olympic and Paralympic Games 2012 – With less than 100 days to go before the start of the 2012 Olympic games, preparations for the start of the Games are reaching their climax.

Though the main focus of the Games will be on London as host city, the Games are also a national event with the Torch Relay passing through the whole of the UK and with five of the Games venues being outside of London and all in **CCN** Member authority areas. The **Torch Relay** will start on 19 May at Land's End, Cornwall and then pass through every **CCN** member authority before the relay completes its journey in London on 27 July with the Opening ceremony. More details of the Torch Relay, including the route can be found HERE.

Many CCN Member counties are also hosting teams from across the globe at a range of training facilities; and Loughborough University in Leicestershire has been selected by the British Olympic Association as The Official Preparation Camp Headquarters for Team GB prior to the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Of the thirty London 2012 venues, five will be outside London – and all in **CCN** member authorities. They are - Brands Hatch (Kent) which will host the Road Cycling; Dorney Lake, Eton Dorney in Buckinghamshire, venue for the Canoeing and Rowing events; Hadleigh Farm, Essex, which will host the Mountain Biking events and Dorset's Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy which is the centre for all Olympic Sailing events in 2012. The Lee Valley White Water Centre, located in Hertfordshire, will host the Canoe Slalom competition.

Lee Valley White Water Centre

CCN Newsletter

County Councils Network

Good luck to all competitors, organisers, supporters and those involved in making the games happen.

And finally……

Recent Awards Success for CCN Member Authorities - A number of **CCN** member authorities have recently won awards including:

- Shropshire Council has won the Pamela Sheridan Innovation in Sex and Relationship Education Award as part of the first ever UK Sexual Health Awards hosted by charities Brook and FPA. The award recognised the Shropshire Respect Your Relationship and Sex Education Programme developed by Shropshire Council with Shropshire County Primary Care Trust offering training and support to teachers, including resources for delivering an interactive programme of relationship and sex education from year 6 to year 11.

- Leicestershire County Council has won the inaugural MAST[1] award for an evaluation process to assess the effectiveness of the Bare Bones scheme. The Bare Bones scheme which, encourages scooter riders to wear protective clothing to avoid abrasion injuries, originated in Nottinghamshire and has also been taken up by the road safety teams in Leicestershire and Derbyshire.

- Northumberland County Council have won a national "techie award" for use of technology and social media for the Northumberland Gets Social campaign, designed to allow residents to engage with the county council via Facebook and Twitter.

- The contractors for the Weymouth Relief Road, commissioned by Dorset County Council have won a Silver award in the Considerate Constructors Scheme for contractors Skansia Construction UK Ltd. Weymouth's new intelligent transport system also won the top award for excellence from the Intelligent Transport Society for the UK.

[1] Market Analysis & Segmentation Tools

CCN Newsletter

County Councils Network

A number of **CCN** member authorities have also been shortlisted as finalists or highly commended in the 2012 MJ Awards:

- Best Achieving Council: Finalist – Hertfordshire County Council. Commended- Cornwall Council and Lancashire County Council;
- Children's Services: Finalists – Hampshire County Council: Young Interpreters and Northumberland County Council: Targeted Adolescent Services;
- Community Investor of the Year: Finalists – Durham County Council, and Northamptonshire County Council;
- Customer Behaviour Change: Commended – Buckinghamshire County Council;
- Delivering Better Outcomes: Finalist – Cornwall Council. Commended – Cheshire West and Chester Council and Surrey County Council;
- Democratic Services: Finalist – Cornwall Council. Commended – Kent County Council and Staffordshire County Council;
- Innovative Procurement: Finalists – Cheshire West and Chester Council, Warwickshire County Council: Better Value Road Maintenance, Warwickshire County Council: Scape. Commended – Essex County Council: Care Services and Essex County Council: Essex Property and Facilities;
- Legal Services: Finalist – Hampshire County Council;
- Most Transformed Property Portfolio: Finalists – Cheshire West and Chester Council, Hampshire County Council and Worcestershire County Council. Commended – Norfolk County Council;
- Public Protection: Finalists – Suffolk County Council and Surrey Trading Standards Service. Commended – Cheshire West and Chester Council;
- Redefining Quality in Adult Services: Finalist – Surrey County Council. Commended: Cheshire West and Chester Council and Surrey County Council: Acute Medical Unit;
- Shared Services: Finalist – Cheshire West and Chester and Halton Borough Council. Commended – Hampshire County Council and Constabulary, Lancashire County Council and NHS North Lancashire and Hoople Ltd: a joint venture between Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire PCT and Hereford Hospital;

CCN Newsletter

County Councils Network

- Transformation Through IT – Commended: North Yorkshire County Council;
- Workforce Transformation: Finalist – Lancashire County Council.

If you wish to know more about anything mentioned in this newsletter, please contact one of the **CCN** team:

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Further information about the **CCN** and our work can be found on our website: www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk

Follow **CCN** on Twitter: http://twitter.com/ccnoffice

As always, we welcome feedback on the items included. Which bits did you find interesting? Are there other things you would like us to cover? Please send us your feedback by clicking on this link.